



February 16, 2023

Testimony regarding an Act Concerning Certain Sewage Disposal Systems and Alternative Sewage Disposal Systems Bill No. 1001

My name is David Potts. I am an Environmental Scientist and President of Geomatrix, LLC in Old Saybrook. I have over 25 years experience in the field of onsite wastewater treatment and dispersal. Geomatrix has been involved in the construction of thousands of onsite wastewater treatment and dispersal systems across the United States.

I support Section 1 of this Bill. It will simplify and reduce costs.

I am not opposed to Section 2 of this Bill, but based on my experience working with AT systems across the country suggest caution is in order.

There are a few of these AT units consistently perform as promised; however, the vast majority of AT units do not. There are many jurisdictions that have allowed AT units to be installed and now have many systems that are not achieving the required treatment Standard. In addition to the environmental problems this causes, this can also result in the premature failure of leaching systems, odor problems and surface releases of aerosols.

While Connecticut may be behind many neighboring states with respect to the adoption of AT units, sometimes it is better to be a follower than an early adopter. If Connecticut is going to move forward with AT units, they must learn from neighboring states with similar conditions to not repeat their failures. Approval of these devices must be based on field performance under conditions similar to Connecticut for a period of time sufficient to prove performance under all seasonal conditions. Data collected in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Suffolk County New York have shown that tests and Standards such as NSF have not been found to be predictive of field performance.

It should also be clear that these AT units, even when operating properly, are not cheap to install or operate. Rhode Island and Massachusetts have used these AT units for many years. Geomatrix is involved with projects in these states on a daily basis. The use of these AT units almost never results in any cost or space savings. The use of these AT units is to meet a regulatory requirement, most often for nitrogen removal.

Those without real world experience with AT believe that it is a panacea for all things wastewater; this is simply not the case.

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